



Child development chart: Preschool milestones

By Mayo Clinic staff

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Every child grows and develops at his or her own pace. Still, child development tends to follow a fairly predictable path. Check out this child development chart for milestones from ages 2 to 5. If your child's development seems to be lagging behind in certain areas, share your concerns with your child's doctor.

Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5
Language skills			
Speaks about 50 words	Speaks 250 to 500 or more words	Answers simple questions	Understands rhyming
Links two words together	Speaks in three- and four-word sentences	Speaks in complete sentences	Uses compound and complex sentences
Uses some adjectives (big, happy)	Uses pronouns (I, you, we, they) and some plurals	Uses prepositions (under, beside, in front)	Uses future tense
Speaks clearly enough for parents to understand some of the words	States first name	Speaks clearly enough for strangers to understand	States full name and address
Social skills			

Becomes aware of his or her identity as a separate individual	Imitates parents and playmates	Cooperates with playmates	Wants to be like friends
May become defiant	Takes turns	Tries to solve problems	Follows rules
Becomes interested in playing with other children	Expresses affection openly	May have a best friend	Understands gender
Separation anxiety begins to fade	Easily separates from parents	Becomes more independent	Wants to do things alone
Cognitive skills			
Begins to play make-believe	Asks "why" questions	Becomes involved in more complex imaginary play	Uses imagination to create stories
Begins to sort objects by shape and color	Correctly names some colors	Prints some capital letters	Correctly counts 10 or more objects
Scribbles	Copies a circle	Draws a person with two to four body parts	Copies a triangle and other geometric patterns
Finds hidden objects	Understands the concepts of same and different	Understands the concepts of morning, afternoon and night	Understands the concepts of time and sequential order
Physical skills			
Walks alone and stands on tiptoe	Walks up and down stairs, alternating feet	Stands on one foot for at least five seconds	Stands on one foot for at least 10 seconds
Climbs on furniture and begins to run	Kicks, climbs, runs and pedals a tricycle	Throws ball overhand, kicks ball forward and catches bounced ball most of the time	Hops, swings and somersaults
Builds a tower of six or more blocks	Builds a tower of nine or more blocks	Dresses and undresses	May learn to ride a bike and swim
Empties objects from a container	Manipulates small objects	Uses scissors	Brushes own teeth and cares

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References

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